

# Native Plants

The native plants, trees and groundcovers that make up the distinctive Cape Cod landscape are essential to a balanced ecosystem, offering food and habitat for native and migrating species that plants introduced from other parts of the world do not. An Eastern Red Cedar, for example, offers more food, cover and habitat than the ornamental Leyland cypress. Native plants can thrive without the fertilizers, irrigation systems and extra care

that ornamental species typically require. Native plants are generally required within Buffer Zones.

## Irrigation

In-ground irrigation is not permitted in Buffer Zones. Native plants don't need it.

## Herbicides

Using herbicides for invasive plant removal will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## Lawn Fertilizers

Fertilizer use near wetlands can adversely affect water quality. They add additional nutrients to ponds and coastal area that cause algal blooms and reduce the oxygen in water for fish and other aquatic life.



Wildflowers and native grasses replacing lawn.

The Conservation Commission regulates the use of fertilizers. They are generally not permitted in a Buffer Zone. A natural "Cape Cod Lawn" is best.



Diamondback terrapin, salt marsh turtle, state-listed threatened species.

## Need Help?

Contact the Conservation office.

If you are unsure whether your project or activity requires a permit, call the Eastham Conservation Office — we are happy to help. It is better to check rather than risk the disruption of a work stoppage and plan revision.

The Conservation Office can provide information about native and non-native plants. Our website is an excellent source of information.



Spring peeper, a local wetlands resident.

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# Protecting Eastham's Wetlands Resource Areas

Willet. A common shorebird well-known for its scolding call.



**Town of Eastham  
Conservation Commission**



# What is a Resource Area?

Resource Areas are environmentally sensitive areas that are protected under state and local laws. They include ponds, streams, vegetated wetlands, lands subject to flooding, the ocean, bay, salt marshes, dunes, beaches, and banks that are either coastal or inland. Buffer Zones of 100' (200' for herring runs and streams) border Resource Areas.

## What is an Activity?

Regulated Activities are any kind of work that may alter or impact a nearby Resource Area. They include: installing or replacing fences, decks, sheds, or patios; constructing additions; landscaping; removing trees, vines, and shrubs; vista pruning; installing or repairing septic; installing or repairing beach access stairways; and other actions that may disturb the ground,

vegetation or wildlife.

**Prior formal approval is required for activities in Resource Areas and Buffer Zones.**

Careful public review of any proposed work that may alter Resource Areas or Buffer Zones, helps to protect these resources.

Beach plum blossoms.



# Wetlands

Wetlands are an important part of Eastham's identity. We are bordered by ocean and bay, with salt marshes, fresh water ponds, vernal pools, and many other types of wetlands in between. Wetland areas are not just beautiful, they also have important functions. They provide flood control, help to prevent pollution and storm damage, and are habitats for an incredibly diverse range of wildlife and plants. Protecting our wetlands helps to safeguard public and private water supplies, groundwater, wildlife habitat and fisheries and shellfish.



Nauset Marsh. Salt marshes rival coral reefs and rain forests for their ecological diversity.

**Landowners with wetlands on or near their property play an important role as stewards of those resources.**

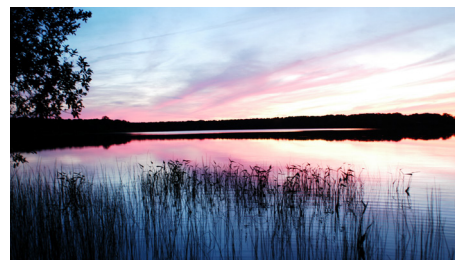
Checking in with the Conservation Agent early in your project may avoid costly and time consuming problems later.

## What is the Conservation Commission?

The Eastham Conservation Commission is a seven-member volunteer board appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Eastham Wetlands Bylaw, protecting the land, water and wildlife of our community. It is also responsible for overseeing town owned conservation lands. The Commission meets twice a month.

## Conservation Lands

The Town of Eastham manages Conservation Lands including wetlands, forest and meadows, acquired to protect the natural resources of Eastham for the benefit of current and future generations. Many of these areas include habitat for rare or endangered species. Some



include public trails, such as

Great Pond. Pickerelweed and three square rush (foreground) provide food and habitat for waterfowl and damselflies.

the Glacial Pond Trail connecting Wiley Park, the Nickerson Property and Cottontail Acres adjacent to five freshwater ponds. Trail maps can be found on our website.

Check back with the Conservation Agent if you need to make any changes to your project after permitting.

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